

Damage Prevention Prior to Excavating &

How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak

There are thousands of dig-in damage incidents in the United States every year. Striking an underground pipeline may lead to expensive fines, serious injury or death. Gas pipelines are built with safety and reliability as top priorities, following state and federal guidelines, regulations and specifications. However, a natural gas leak may result in fire, explosion, and/or asphyxiation.

Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

1. **Survey and Mark** – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.
2. **Call Before You Dig** - 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the chance of injury and unneeded expense.
3. **Wait!** Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.
4. **Respect the Marks!** Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.
5. **Dig** – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 24-inches of each side of the lines. If you plan to dig anywhere a marked area – especially when using power equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

If your equipment contacts a gas line:

- **Leave equipment;** jumping clear and shuffling away, without turning off engines or generators.
- **Warn others and leave** the area quickly.
- **Do not operate** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas.
- Leave the **excavation open**.
- In a natural gas emergency, **call 911**, then the City of Monroe.

Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, dirt or dust blowing from the ground or the smell of rotten eggs.



If you smell gas or think you may smell gas:

- **Leave** the area immediately
- **Call** your local gas provider at 770-267-3429 or 911 **from a neighboring home or business**
- **Never** turn on or off switches, use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas & cause an explosion.
- **Stay** in a safe location until the emergency responder arrives & gives you clearance to return to the area.

Over the past 20 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%.

Follow These Guidelines to Prevent Damage While Working Near Natural Gas Pipelines



To learn more about our natural gas service and the benefits of natural gas, call the City of Monroe at 770-267-3429 or visit our website at www.monroega.com